



TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE™
EXCELLENCE IN PERFORMANCE

KJOS CONCERT BAND
GRADE 3
WB487F
\$7.00

BRAD CIECHOMSKI

Ascending the Crystal Hill

Correlated with TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE™ Book 3, Page 20



About the Composer



Brad Ciechowski (b. 1959) is currently the Director of Bands at Harrison Middle School in Yarmouth, Maine where he was the 2005–2006 teacher of the year and is one of 51 teachers in the USA to receive the 2008 American Star of Teaching. In Yarmouth, he conducts four concert bands and three jazz bands. Although experienced at all levels of the band world, Brad has focused his career on developing a passion for music in students in their early, formative years.

Brad received his bachelor's and master's degrees from The University of New Hampshire where he studied composition with Andrew Boysen Jr.

As a composer, Brad has received commissions for bands at every level, elementary, middle, high school and college ensembles. His compositions have been showcased at National Conventions, as well as concerts abroad. Brad's many compositions for concert band and jazz bands, have been published by numerous national music publishers. Brad receives commissions from schools each year, tailoring the composition process to the school's ensembles.

Aside from composing, Brad is active in New England as a clinician, adjudicator and guest conductor at district and state music festivals and competitions.

A performer at heart, Brad stays busy as a freelance drummer with local, regional and national artists in the greater New England Area. As a veteran jazz drummer, Brad has appeared on stage with jazz great such as Clark Terry, Mel Torme, Bob Mintzer, The New York Voices, Wayne Bergeron, Conrad Herwig, comedian Joan Rivers, LA saxophonist Eric Marienthal, and John Faddis just to name a few. He has even rocked out with David Crosby of Crosby, Stills and Nash. Brad is a founding member of the Portland Jazz Orchestra (Jazz), and records/appears frequently with the rock band "The Strangely Possibles." Brad is a member of the Vic Firth Drum Stick Company with an endorsement as part of their Percussion Education Team. Brad lives in Portland, Maine with his bass-playing wife when he's not teaching, gigging, or out on his boat!

About the Composition

Ascending the Crystal Hill was commissioned by the New Hampshire Band Directors Association for the 2015 Middle Level Honor Band. When working with the organizers of the festival about the piece, it became clear to center the piece around the New Hampshire icon Mount Washington. Standing at 6,288.2 feet, Mount Washington is the highest mountain in the northeastern United States. As the mountain is snow-covered for most of the calendar year, its nickname is the "Crystal Hill." With its snow-capped peak and the highest wind speed ever recorded in the world, 231 m.p.h., the Crystal Hill's weather changes quickly and drastically! The music would have to reflect a climber's ascension, weather conditions and summit to the peak!

The piece opens with a majestic fanfare, as if seeing the mountain from a distance. At measure 17, the climb begins with a fast-paced tempo. Measure 33 is symbolic of a trailside scenic vista as you ascend. With rapid weather changes, measure 39's pulse and pace offer changing patterns, symbolic of rapid changing weather and trail conditions.

At measure 67, the famous, or infamous, wind enters! The woodwind patterns are scored to portray the ever-changing conditions, shifting from E \flat Major to A major. As the climb continues, the musical motif is passed around the band, bringing us to a brief recap of the opening, just prior to arriving at the summit of the mountain as the "grandioso" fanfare of measure 110; which allows for a moment of celebration after reaching the summit.

As all climbs go, one must go up and then down. Measure 117, begins our descent; passing through many of the conditions and changes that were experienced on the ascent.

As we reach the end of the trail, the wind returns. Although we reached the summit on a good day (weather wise) the mountain will remain an ever-changing wilderness. The final minor to major chords are the last reminder of the rapidly changing conditions on Mount Washington, the Crystal Hill.

Correlation with TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE™

Ascending the Crystal Hill correlates with *Tradition of Excellence* Book 3, page 20.

Full Conductor Score

Commissioned by the New Hampshire Band Directors Association for the 2015 Middle Level Honor Band.

Premiered March 20, 2015 under the direction of the composer.

Ascending the Crystal Hill

Approx. performance time—5:00

Brad Ciechomski

ASCAP

Grandioso (♩ = 80)

The musical score is arranged in systems. The first system includes Wind* (Flutes 1 & 2, Oboe, B♭ Clarinets 1 & 2, E♭ Alto Clarinet, B♭ Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, E♭ Alto Saxophones 1 & 2, B♭ Tenor Saxophone, and E♭ Baritone Saxophone). The second system includes B♭ Trumpets 1 & 2, F Horn, Trombones 1 & 2, Baritone, and Tuba. The third system includes Mallets (Chimes, Xylophone, Bells), Bar Chimes, Suspended Cymbal, Gong, Crash Cymbals, Triangle, Tambourine, Snare Drum, Bass Drum, and Timpani. The score features various dynamics such as *mp*, *ff*, *ff*, *fp*, and *mf*, and includes performance instructions like 'no trill', 'div.', 'unis.', and 'Solo'. A large 'SAMPLE' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the score.

*Wind: Download tracks from the Kjos Multimedia Library at <https://www.kjos.com>.

The Wind part includes the 1st Trumpet part for reference. It is also indicated in the timpani part, and playable by that performer.

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11

Fls. 1 2 *mf* *f* *fp* *ff* *rit.*

Ob. *mf* *f* *fp* *ff*

B♭ Cls. 1 2 *mf* *f* *fp* *ff* *no trill*

E♭ A. Cl. *mp* *f* *fp* *ff*

B♭ B. Cl. *f* *fp* *ff*

Bsn. *f* *fp* *ff*

E♭ A. Saxes 1 2 *mp* *f* *fp* *ff*

B♭ T. Sax. *mp* *f* *fp* *ff*

E♭ B. Sax. *f* *fp* *ff*

11

B♭ Tpts. 1 2 *f* *ff* *rit.*

F Hn. *f* *ff*

Trbs. 1 2 *sfz* *mp* *f* *fp* *ff* *1. div. b* *1. unis.* *a2*

Bar. *sfz* *mp* *f* *fp* *ff*

Tuba *f* *fp* *ff*

11

Chimes *f* *rit.*

Bar Chimes Gong *pp* *Gong - w/ BD mts.*

C. Cyms. *ff*

Tri. Tamb. *ff*

S.D. B.D. *fp* *ff* *mf*

Timp. *mf*

17 Fast (♩ = 172)

Fls. 1 2
Ob.
B♭ Cls. 1 2
E♭ A. Cl.
B♭ B. Cl.
Bsn.
E♭ A. Saxes 1 2
B♭ T. Sax.
E♭ B. Sax.

17 Fast (♩ = 172)

B♭ Tpts. 1 2
F Hn.
Trbs. 1 2
Bar.
Tuba

17 Fast (♩ = 172)

Xyl.
Gong
S. Cym.
C. Cyms.
Tri. Tamb.
S.D.
B.D.
Timp.

Xyl. - hard mlts.
S. Cym. - with stick
with med. hard mlts.

33

Fls. 1 2

Ob.

B \flat Cls. 1 2

E \flat A. Cl.

B \flat B. Cl.

Bsn.

E \flat A. Saxes 1 2

B \flat T. Sax.

E \flat B. Sax.

33

B \flat Tpts. 1 2

F Hn.

Trbs. 1 2

Bar.

Tuba

33

Xyl.

Bells

S. Cym.

C. Cyms.

Tri. Tamb.

S.D. B.D.

Timp.

67

play Wind 1

68

69

70

71

72

Wind

Fls. 1
2

Ob.

B \flat Cls. 1
2

E \flat A. Cl.

B \flat B. Cl.

Bsn.

E \flat A. Saxes 1
2

B \flat T. Sax.

E \flat B. Sax.

67

B \flat Tpts. 1
2

F Hn.

Trbs. 1
2

Bar.

Tuba

67

Bells

S. Cym.
Gong

C. Cyms.

Tri.
Tamb.

S.D.
B.D.

Timp.



let all ring

with soft yarn

Splashy

Triangle

84

83 85 86 87

Fls. 1 2

Ob.

B♭ Cls. 1 2

E♭ A. Cl.

B♭ B. Cl.

Bsn.

E♭ A. Saxs. 1 2

B♭ T. Sax.

E♭ B. Sax.

84

B♭ Tpts. 1 2

F Hn.

Trbs. 1 2

Bar.

Tuba

84

Bells

S. Cym.

C. Cyms.

Tri. Tamb.

S.D. B.D.

Timp.

mp *f* *div.* *f* *f* *a2* *mp* *f* *f* *f*

88 89 90 91 92

Fls. 1 2

Ob.

B \flat Cls. 1 2

E \flat A. Cl.

B \flat B. Cl.

Bsn.

E \flat A. Saxes 1 2

B \flat T. Sax.

E \flat B. Sax.

B \flat Tpts. 1 2

F Hn.

Trbs. 1 2

Bar.

Tuba

Bells

S. Cym.

C. Cyms.

Tri. Tamb.

S.D. B.D.

Timp.

mp *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *f* *mp* *f*

unis. div.

92

92

92

molto rit.

113 114 115 116

Fls. 1 2

Ob.

B \flat Cls. 1 2

E \flat A. Cl.

B \flat B. Cl.

Bsn.

E \flat A. Saxes 1 2

B \flat T. Sax.

E \flat B. Sax.

ff *f* *ff* *ff*

stagger breathe

bell tone

sfz

molto rit.

113

B \flat Tpts. 1 2

F Hn.

Trbs. 1 2

Bar.

Tuba

bell tone

sfz *ff*

molto rit.

113

Bells

S. Cym.

C. Cyms.

Tri. Tamb.

S.D. B.D.

Timp.

sfz *mp* *p*

133

134 135 136 137

Fls. 1 2

Ob.

B♭ Cls. 1 2

E♭ A. Cl.

B♭ B. Cl.

Bsn.

E♭ A. Saxes 1 2

B♭ T. Sax.

E♭ B. Sax.

133

B♭ Tpts. 1 2

F Hn.

Trbs. 1 2

Bar.

Tuba

133

Xyl.

Bells

S. Cym.

C. Cyms.

Tri. Tamb.

S.D. B.D.

Timp.

mf soar *ff* *mf*

139

138 140 141 142

Fls. 1 2

Ob.

B♭ Cls. 1 2

E♭ A. Cl.

B♭ B. Cl.

Bsn.

E♭ A. Saxes 1 2

B♭ T. Sax.

E♭ B. Sax.

139

B♭ Tpts. 1 2

F Hn.

Trbs. 1 2

Bar.

Tuba

139

Xyl.

S. Cym. with soft yarn *mp* *ff* *mp*

C. Cyms.

Tri. Tamb. *ff*

S.D. B.D.

Timp. *ff*

153

play Wind 2

154

155

156

157

Wind

Fls. 1
2

Ob.

B♭ Cls. 1
2

E♭ A. Cl.

B♭ B. Cl.

Bsn.

E♭ A. Saxes 1
2

B♭ T. Sax.

E♭ B. Sax.

153

B♭ Tpts. 1
2

F Hn.

Trbs. 1
2

Bar.

Tuba

153

Xyl.

Bells

Bar Chimes

S. Cym.

C. Cyms.

Tri. Tamb.

S.D.
B.D.

Timp.



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